

WORKFORCE INNOVATION NOTICE: 03-02-21

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

FROM: Governor's Workforce Board

SUBJECT: Lower Living Standard – 2021 Guidance

DATE: Effective: July 1, 2021



- 1. PURPOSE:** To transmit the 2021 Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) and Self-Sufficiency Guidelines. The LLSIL guidelines below are used to determine eligibility based on family income for youth and for “priority of service” adults. The Self-sufficiency Guidelines are used to determine eligibility based on a lack of a self-sufficient wage for employed individuals.
- 2. REFERENCES:** WIOA Title I; [USDOL LLSIL Guidelines - Federal Register dated April 9, 2021](#); [HHS Poverty Guidelines - Federal Register dated February 1, 2021](#)
- 3. BACKGROUND:** WIOA defines the term “low income individual” as one who qualifies under various criteria, including individuals in a family with total income below either the federal poverty level of 70% of the lower living standard income level (LLSIL). The 2021 Poverty Level Guidelines were published in the Federal Register on February 1, 2021. The 2021 LLSIL Guidelines were published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2021.
- 4. INQUIRIES:** Questions concerning this issuance may be directed by phone or by email at:

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Governor's Workforce Board RI
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 72-3
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920
(401) 462-8860 Phone (401) 462-8865 Fax
www.dlt.ri.gov | www.gwb.ri.gov

5. DETERMINATION OF INCOME LEVEL.

In order to determine 70% of LLSIL, refer to the spreadsheet made available with the USDOL

LLSIL Guidelines:

(<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/llsil/pdfs/Final%202021%20LLSIL.xlsx>)

Rhode Island is listed in the Northeast Metro Jurisdiction. Tab two indicates that for the Northeast Metro region 70% of LLSIL, based on family size, is as follows:

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Income	11,644	19,083	26,191	32,331	38,158	44,620

To determine 70% the LLSIL for family sizes greater than six, subtract the LLSIL of a family of five from a family of six. Use the difference of a family of five and six (\$6,462) as the income you will add to each income after a family of six.

In order to determine the Federal Poverty Level, refer to the 2021 HHS Poverty Guidelines made available with the USDOL LLSIL Guidelines. Rhode Island falls with the category of the 'Contiguous 48 States and the District of Columbia'. The 2021 Federal Poverty Level, based on family size, is as follows:

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total Income	12,880	17,420	21,960	26,500	31,040	35,580	40,120	44,660

To determine the Federal Poverty Level for families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,540 for each additional person.

Because the Federal Poverty level for a family size of one - \$12,880 - is greater than the LLSIL for a family of one - \$11,644 - the Federal Poverty Level will be used to establish low income status for a family of one. For all other family sizes, the LLSIL is to be utilized as it exceeds the poverty guidelines.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference	Federal Poverty Level	Lower Living Income Standard Level	Lower Living Income Standard Level	Lower Living Income Standard Level	Lower Living Income Standard Level	Lower Living Income Standard Level
Total Income	12,880	19,083	26,191	32,331	38,158	44,620

6. DETERMINATION OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. Self-sufficiency is defined as employment that pays 100% of the LLSIL. Refer to the spreadsheet made available with the USDOL LLSIL Guidelines (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/llsil>).

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Income	16,634	27,262	37,415	46,188	54,511	63,743

To determine 100% of the LLSIL for family sizes greater than six, subtract the LLSIL of a family of five from a family of six. Use the difference of a family of five and six (\$9,232) as the income you will add to each income after a family of six.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. These guidelines are effective July 1, 2021.